Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claim 4. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for creating an attribute bounded network of computers comprising the steps of:

creating and maintaining a list of attribute bounded electronic addresses representing a plurality of indexable electronic documents, on a computer network, that are associated with a bounded attribute;

identifying a plurality of computers associated with the bounded attribute;

in response to receiving an attribute bounded request from one of the computers, assigning one or more electronic addresses from the attribute bounded list; and

sending the assigned electronic address to the requesting computer, where the requesting computer processes the distributed electronic address to index one or more electronic documents that are obtained through the assigned electronic address.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving the processed result from the requesting computer.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the attribute is a geographically bounded region.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the geographically bounded region is automatically generated based upon a physical address selected from at least one of a group consisting of: a city, a zip code, a longitude, a latitude, an altitude, a telephone area code, an informal designation and an area relative to a location.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the attribute is a geographically bounded region based upon a computer address.

6.　(Original)　The method of Claim 1 wherein the attribute is a topical boundary.

7.　(Original)　The method of Claim 1 wherein the network is the Internet and the electronic addresses are represented as Uniform Resource Locators.

8.　(Previously Presented)　The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of assigning includes overlapping the assignment of attribute bounded electronic addresses to multiple computers.

9.　(Original)　The method of Claim 1 wherein the matching at least one of the electronic addresses in the attribute bounded list based upon at least one attribute from the attribute bounded request determines that no electronic addresses in the attribute bounded list matches any attribute from the attribute bounded request; and

assigning an electronic address from the attribute bounded list that does not match the attribute bounded request from the requesting computer.

10.　(Original)　The method of Claim 1 wherein processing step comprises:

spidering, on the requesting computer, the distributed electronic address.

11.　(Withdrawn)　A method for sharing an electronic document located on a computer in a peer-to-peer computer network comprising the steps of:

establishing a session between a first computer and a server computer;

transferring a bounded attribute indicator from the first computer to the server computer;

transferring an electronic document address representing the electronic document and an index for the electronic document, from the first computer to the server computer;

searching, by a second computer, for the electronic document, on the server computer by matching a bounded attribute indicator from the second computer;

receiving notification on the second computer, from the server of the electronic document address of the electronic document; and

initiating, from the second computer, a request to transfer the electronic document from the first computer to the second computer.

12.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 11 wherein the bounded attribute is a geographically bounded region.

13.   (Withdrawn) A method for creating a virtual community within a peer-to-peer computer network by identifying peer computer connections based upon a bounded attribute indicator comprising the steps of:

defining the bounded attribute indicator for a computer;

identifying peer computers associated with the bounded attribute   indicator;

creating a list of identified peer computers on the computer network that are associated with the bounded attribute indicator;

using the list of identified peer computers to communicate with peer computers within the peer-to-peer network to create the virtual community.

14.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein the bounded attribute is a geographically bounded region.

15.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein the geographically bounded region is automatically defined based upon the requesting computer's physical address.

16.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein the geographically bounded region is automatically defined based upon a geographic location associated with an electronic document stored on the computer.

17.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein identifying peer computers comprises using a network request message and a network response message, wherein at least one of the network messages includes geographic location data.

18.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein the virtual community hosts a searchable index of electronic document addresses.

19.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein the list of identified computers contains identifiers associated with multiple geographically bounded regions.

20.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 further comprising aggregating related peer computers using a peer computer bridge, the peer computer bridge being capable of summarizing information represented by the aggregated related peer computers and communicating with other peer computer bridges.

21.   (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein each computer within the peer-to-peer network provides an index of electronic documents available on the computer.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the plurality of computers uses peer-to-peer technology to form a virtual community associated with the bounded attribute.

23.   (Previously Presented) A method for creating an attribute bounded network of computers comprising:

        identifying a plurality of computers associated with a geographically bounded attribute to create an geographically bounded network of computers;

        maintaining a list of geographically bounded electronic addresses representing a plurality of indexable electronic documents that are associated with the geographically bounded attribute;

        assigning electronic addresses from the geographically bounded list to computers in the geographically bounded network of computers; and

        in response to receiving the assigned electronic addresses from the geographically bounded list, indexing by computers in the geographically bounded network of

computers, one or more electronic documents having geographically bounded electronic addresses.